

Her Dowry

By RUTH GRAHAM

In the Rocky mountains, not far west of Denver, there lived William Harrison, who had taken his wife and daughter into the gold region for the purpose of looking in the ground for a fortune. He settled himself and them in a log cabin on Clear creek. He would wash for gold until he found himself possessed of enough of the precious metal to keep his family for awhile, then he would start out on a prospecting tour, to dig holes in the ground, hoping to find gold in paying quantities.

But Harrison's diggings resulted in nothing. Each day he became more disappointed and discouraged.

One day a stranger came to Harrison's cabin and asked for a night's lodging. Mrs. Harrison took him in and gave him what she had, which was little enough, for they were very poor. He was waited on by Isabel at supper and chatted with her while he ate. He drew from her the story of her father's efforts to win a fortune for her out of the ground, besides a secret that was unknown to her parents. She loved a young man who was hunting for gold and had achieved no more success than her father. He was able to obtain only a precarious living for himself, and it would be a sin for the couple to marry while doomed to such abject poverty.

The stranger seemed much interested in the girl's story and asked many questions concerning the young man. Isabel assured him that he was of good character and not liable to a change or one following an ignis fatuus, since everybody in that region was a gold hunter. He was the son of a prospector. Therefore he might be said to have been born to the occupation.

The stranger seemed to be a peculiar man with strange ideas. Instead of berating Isabel's father or her lover for wasting time in a hunt that there was not one chance in a thousand of being successful, he said that life consisted of taking chances, for no one could tell what a day or an hour might bring forth. "Life," he said, "is not even a speculation. It is sure to end in the grave."

This was said with a melancholy spirit. The man was ill and possibly was influenced by his illness. He remained a month in Harrison's cabin, ministered to by Mrs. Harrison and Isabel. But he showed such interest in Isabel that he fell entirely under her care. He was delayed by a snowstorm that came early in the winter, and the snow was likely to remain on the ground for many months. Isabel told her friend that she regretted this because it covered a little grotto near the house where in fair weather she used to go and sew or read. He replied that life was only enjoyed by contrasts and the longer she was kept out of her grotto the happier she would be to get into it again.

When it ceased to snow the stranger took his departure. Before going he said to her:

"You will receive a dowry which will enable you to marry the man you love."

Isabel looked at him in astonishment and asked him when the dowry would come to her.

"When the sun is warm enough to melt the snow," was the reply.

The stranger was such an odd individual that Isabel thought little of this statement, thinking that he was not aware of what he said. She certainly did not place sufficient faith in it to tell it to her father and mother or to her lover.

That was a long winter, and her father found prospecting difficult on account of the deep snow. The family pined for the spring to come to release them from their cabin and enable them to enjoy the out of door life, so inviting in the mountains.

At last there came a series of warm days, and the snow began to melt and run down the gulches in torrents. It was so thick that it required time to leave bare any of the soil or rocks. One remark of the stranger Isabel remembered. It was that the longer she was kept out of her grotto the more she would rejoice at re-entering it.

One morning after several warm days she was sitting by the window of her little room sewing. The sun was still melting the snow, shining brightly. Thinking of the stranger's remark about her grotto, she turned her head to look at it, for she could see it from her window. The snow had been melted so far as to leave several bare spots. On the edge of one of these spots she noticed a dazzling light made by the sun shining on some smooth substance. Isabel's curiosity was excited as to what this substance was, for she did not remember to have left any bit of metal or glass there in the autumn. She went out to the grotto, and there at her feet was a gold piece.

She picked it up wonderingly, then hunted in the snow for more. She found no more, but the next morning the snow had melted so far as to uncover a basket that had been missing, and it was full of gold coins.

The wonder-stricken girl counted them and found what was an ample dowry.

She at once connected it with the stranger she had nursed and put it away for him, thinking he would return and claim it. But he never came. Isabel kept it untouched till the next autumn came on, and then, having heard nothing from him, she acted on what he had said about finding her dowry "when the snow melts" and appropriated it to herself.

HOGS UP 45 CENTS MORE.

Establish New High Record at \$18 a Hundred.

Chicago, Aug. 16.—Hogs established another high record in the live stock market here yesterday, selling at \$18, 45 cents higher than Tuesday's record price.

LIBRARIES FOR ALL ARMY CAMPS

American Library Association is Planning to Provide Them

ASK FOR \$1,000,000 CASH FUND

Also for 1000,000 or More Suitable Books

Washington, Aug. 16.—The American Library association called yesterday for \$1,000,000 cash, several hundred volunteer librarians and 1,000,000 or more good books for the 687,000 drafted men about to enter cantonment camps.

Every American can help make the troops happy. The library in your town will tell you how. Cash, books or services welcomed.

Under authority of the war department, the A. L. A. is building a big general library in each of the thirty-two cantonments. These will be supplemented by circulating libraries in each camp and permanent libraries in both Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus headquarters buildings. Some camps will have 250 branches.

The estimated cost of maintaining the libraries is \$150,000 a year. Each of the thirty-two buildings will be 40x120 feet with shelves for 10,000 books, and as many more magazines and papers.

Should the amount not be contributed meantime, the \$1,000,000 needed to establish these camps libraries, "camp library week" will be celebrated throughout the week of Sept. 24. Of the money to be raised \$500,000 will go for the purchase of books.

The association wants fiction, adventure, sea stories, detective stories, historical novels, collected short stories, especially funny ones; foreign language study books, especially French grammar and dictionaries. Also technical books on aviation, wireless telegraphy, submarines, automobiles, signalling, first aid, drawing, lettering, patriotism, courage good citizenship, why America is at war and non-sectarian devotional books are in demand.

SENATE SLOWNESS ANNOYS HOUSE

Representatives See Little Chance of Adjournment on October 1.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Predictions of congressional adjournment by Oct. 1 ran into a decided bear movement yesterday when congressional leaders summed up the present programme facing the two houses.

House members, annoyed at the "torpidity" of the Senate, declared adjournment by Oct. 1—the latest date ventured—was by no means certain.

At least four vital bills remain to be disposed of—the \$2,000,000,000 war revenue bill, a \$4,000,000,000 allied loan, a \$5,000,000,000 general deficiency bill and the war insurance bill.

The House expects to pass the last three in short order. Unless congressional heads decide to add \$500,000,000 to the war revenue bill as it stands, a new bond issue of at least \$2,000,000,000 will be needed to run the government until Congress reconvenes for its second session in December. The \$2,000,000,000 would be a part of the \$5,000,000,000 that must be raised—in addition to all passed and pending measures—to pay war expenses up to next July.

CZAR TO TASTE HIS OWN MEDICINE

Emperor Is Removed From Jail in Petrograd to Siberia, It Is Reported.

Petrograd, Aug. 16.—The semi-official Russian news agency announced Tuesday night that former Emperor Nicholas and his family were removed Tuesday from the palace at Tsarkoe-Selo, and that it was reported they were being transported to Tobolsk, Siberia.

GARDNER SAVES ALL FOOD.

Massachusetts Town Has Municipal Canning Plant.

Washington, Aug. 16.—No perishable fruits or vegetables will go to waste in Gardner, Mass., according to a report made to the department of agriculture yesterday. There were 1700 home gardens planted in Gardner this spring, one to every nine inhabitants. The town has a municipal canning factory to take care of its surplus products. The Ladies' Aid society is running canning schools four times a week. In addition, Gardner is establishing a municipal market, state agricultural agencies, as well as the federal department of agriculture, are supplying the papers with information on canning and preserving.

Preserves
the skin and complexion indefinitely. Retains the Beauty of Youth when youth is but a memory. Your appearance will always be the wonder of your friends if you use

Gouraud's Oriental Cream
Send 10c. for Trial Size
FERD T. HOPKINS & SON, New York

WHAT THE FOOD PRODUCTION BILL PROVIDES

Eleven million, three hundred and forty-six thousand, four hundred dollars to be used in stimulating production, for protecting and conserving foods, and for a survey of the country's food resources.

Staff of county agents to be increased until at least one agent will be stationed in practically every county in the United States that will co-operate with the department and the state agricultural college.

Women county agents for demonstration work in home economics to be increased in rural counties and similar agents to be placed in towns and cities for first time.

Farm help service to be extended in co-operation with United States department of labor to assist in bringing farmers and farm laborers together.

Countrywide survey to be made of food on farms, in storage, in shops and in homes. Estimates of family consumption of food to be made.

Extension of crop estimating to crops not hitherto reported and to include special inquiries to gather information on extraordinary farm conditions.

Hog and poultry production to be stimulated as far as practicable.

Increased production and conservation of dairy foods to be encouraged.

Animal diseases to be combated on larger scale.

Increased efforts to be made to combat insect pests of plants and animals.

Further steps to be taken to destroy animal pests and predatory animals which injure crops and kill livestock.

Work for the control of plant diseases to be extended.

Survey of seed supplies and needs to be made and results published so that farmers will be assisted in obtaining a sufficient supply of good seed. Seed to be purchased and sold to farmers by the department if necessary in restricted areas.

Demonstrations to be carried out in the proper handling, packing, shipping and marketing of perishable fruits and vegetables to decrease spoilage.

News service for various farm products to be extended so that producers and consumers can be better informed as to the supply and demand and can sell and buy with less expense, less spoilage and less lost motion.

EXTENSION IN FOOD PRODUCTION WORK

U. S. Department of Agriculture to Attack on Larger Scale Problem of Maintaining Ample Food Supply During the War.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 16.—The task of maintaining during the war an ample supply of food will be attacked on a still larger scale by the United States department of agriculture through a score or more of projects, under the provisions of the food production bill just enacted by Congress.

While most of the projects will be extensions of present activities, some of them will represent new undertakings. The task will be to find just where the country stands in so far as the adequacy of the present food supply is concerned, wherever this can be done, and to stop as many as possible of the leaks through which hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of edible products annually is wasted.

Eleven million, three hundred and forty-six thousand, four hundred dollars are made available for the work in the food production bill. This money is for emergency use in addition to the funds appropriated in the regular agricultural appropriation bill for the usual activities of the department. The bill also is distinct from the food control bill, a measure having to do chiefly with the regulation of the distribution of food.

To Increase County Agent Force.

One of the most important steps to be taken in the emergency agricultural work will be the extension of the existing force of county agents—the joint field employees of the department and the states who come into most direct contact with farmers. With the addition of the new county agents an agent will be situated in practically every agricultural county in the United States, that will co-operate to advise and assist farmers in every way possible on matters of production, conservation and marketing.

The number of women county agents in rural counties will be considerably increased and other women agents will be placed in a number of the larger towns and cities. These women will stimulate the production of garden truck, poultry and other products by women and children, and will advise and instruct in regard to the most efficient methods of food utilization and conservation.

To Attack Labor and Food Problems.

Under the food production bill the office of farm management of the department, in co-operation with the United States department of labor, will extend the farm-help activities through which farm laborers and the farmers who most need them have been brought together during the present season.

The third of the more important of the emergency projects to be carried out by the department of agriculture is a quick survey of the food situation. This activity will be for the purpose of ascertaining as accurately as possible the condition of the country's food stores and the normal consumption. In order that such action as may be necessary to insure a sufficient supply may be taken intelligently. Farm stocks and supplies in retail stores and in the hands of consumers will be estimated, and stocks held by wholesale, jobbing, storing, manufacturing and other commercial establishments will be enumerated. It is contemplated that the survey will be followed by monthly reports on several of the more important commodities and, if the emergency requires it, by another survey after an interval of perhaps six months.

Production Will Be Stimulated.

In addition to the activities under the three projects mentioned, special work will be undertaken by many of the bureaus and offices of the department of agriculture in the interest of increased production, and for the conservation, protection and improved handling and marketing of crops and livestock. The bureau of animal industry will seek to bring about increased production of hogs and poultry, the two livestock products capable of most rapid increase. The agents of this bureau also will locate surplus hogs in heavy producing areas and farmers in other sections of the country with good facilities for hog raising, in the effort to bring about more economical distribution of hogs. Efforts also will be made indirectly to increase animal production by combating animal diseases and pests, especially hog cholera, tuberculosis and the cattle tick, which causes losses aggregating millions of dollars annually. The bureau also will endeavor to stimulate the increased production and utilization of dairy food; and will carry on a campaign for the more general production of fertile eggs.

The bureau of entomology will extend its activities in the field to protect crops and livestock. It will assist in organizing communities for combating insect pests, both of crops and livestock.

Marketing Assistance to Be Extended.

Producers will be given advice by the bureau of markets regarding improved methods of packing and handling food products. The bureau also will extend its market news services to include grain, hay and seeds, dairy and poultry products, and to cover more fully vegetables and fruits and meats and meat products, and will assist in solving local truck marketing problems. These services will make public facts as to supply, demand and movement of food products, intended to help in the elimination of the lost motion and economic waste existing in the marketing machinery of the country. The bureau also will help producers and consumers to form direct business relations through the parcel post.

With the extra funds furnished by the bill the bureau of plant industry will greatly increase its war against destructive plant diseases which annually bring about the loss of considerable proportions of the crops of the country. The bureau also will seek to bring about increased conservation of food products by encouraging natural storage and drying of the products best suited to these methods of preservation.

Conserving Farm Products and Animals.

Under the food production bill the department's work for the conservation of farm products, including livestock, will be greatly extended. The states relations service will add to its staff many county and city agents who will give instructions and demonstrations to all parts of the country in canning, drying and the preparation of food products in other forms which will protect them against spoilage. The bureau of markets will seek to reduce losses due to faulty handling, packing, shipping and marketing. The bureau of plant industry will endeavor to arouse interest in the natural storage during the fall and winter months of semi-perishable products. Forces making for the conservation of livestock and animal products will be put into operation by the bureau of animal industry. This work will include, as already mentioned, campaigns for the reduction of losses of livestock from animal diseases, losses of eggs through faulty handling and from failure to produce fertile eggs, and movements to assist in the more economical distribution of hogs. In the latter work field agents of the bureau of animal industry will bring together owners of surplus hogs and farmers having facilities for raising more hogs. This should result in the distribution of the surplus from regions of heavy animal production and expensive feed to parts of the country where animal industry is not well developed and where pasturage and feeding are relatively abundant and cheap. The bill also makes provision for the extension of other lines of the work of the department.

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Topics of the Home and Household.

A rubber band slipped over a ball of crocheted cotton or silk as you are through with it will save many a hopeless tangle.

Sprinkle a little flour in the hot fat before frying with it and it will not be so likely to spatter.

Soak large, unsweetened split crackers in cold water until they swell and then lay in a buttered pan with dots of butter on top. Put in a hot oven until they brown. These are attractive to serve with the salad course for luncheon or dinner.

When you have a piece of embroidery with an open edge that looks as though it might fray out with washing, crochet around the edge in double crochet. It will look like buttonholing, will make the edge look better and wear much longer. If a touch of color is desired, use colored thread.

Canning Blueberries.

Use only fresh, firm and clean blueberries for canning. Best results are obtained if the fruit is canned the same day it is picked.

Pick over fruit carefully and wash by placing in a colander and pouring cold water through it. Pack into hot glass jars and fill spaces with boiling water or hot syrup. If syrup is desired, use a cup of sugar to four cups water and boil till dissolved. Use syrup boiling hot. Adjust tops and partially seal jars (tin cans should be sealed completely). Sterilize in boiling water for 16 minutes and then tighten tops of jars immediately after removing from the hot water. Invert in a place free from draughts to cool. Wrap in dark paper to prevent loss of color in storage. (Keep it dark.)

Blackberries and Dewberries—Blackberries and dewberries should be picked in shallow trays or baskets during the cool part of the day and canned as soon as possible after being picked. Greater care is necessary in handling these berries than in the case of blueberries because they are more easily jammed.

The canning process is essentially the same except that the heavier syrup may be used if desired. An excellent syrup may be made of a cup of sugar dissolved in three cups of the juice from very ripe berries. This gives a very fine flavor and adds color to the canned fruit, making a palatable and attractive dessert.

Send a two-cent stamp to the National Emergency Food Garden Commission, 210 Maryland building, Washington, D. C., for free canning and drying manuals.

Dorothy Dexter.

TO CAN SWEET CORN.

Start as Soon After Corn is Gathered as Possible.

Can as soon after the corn is gathered as possible. Remove husks and silk. Blanch by placing in boiling water for five minutes. Remove and dip quickly into and out of cold water. Cut the corn from the cob and pack directly into hot jars or cans to within one-fourth of an inch from the top. Pour in enough boiling water to fill the container. Add one level teaspoonful of salt to each quart. Put rubber rings and caps of jars into position but do not tighten the wire clamps. Seal tins completely.

Place containers on a false bottom of wooden slate or wire mesh in a vessel of water deep enough to completely cover the containers. Keep the water boiling for three hours.

Remove the jars; tighten covers; invert jars to test seal, and cool (not in draft, as jars might crack).

Tin cans may be placed in cold water for rapid cooling.